

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0011

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0833

FOR NEA/IAI SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR TOON'S FEBRUARY 10 SPEECH

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS DRAFT FOR AMBASSADOR TOON TO CONSIDER FOR HIS SPEECH ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 IN JERUSALEM TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE ISRAEL-AMERICA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL BICENTENNIAL EVENT OF THE SOCIETY AND WILL BEAURE SPEECHES BY PRIME MINISTER RABIN, THE AMBASSADOR, AND MAYOR KOLLEK. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GETTING THIS DRAFT (PREPARED BY VOGEL AND CLEARED BY MOSS) TO THE EMBASSADOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IW OULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF HE COULD CABLE US ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES SO THE TEXT CAN BE PUT INTO FINAL FORM.

2. BEGIN TEXT/(RESPOND BRIEFLY TO PM RABIN'S REMARKS: 1 TO 2 PAGES).

3. "IN VISITING PHILADELPHIA, WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS, PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND I COVERED A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE UNITED STATES. IN A FEW JET HOURS WE CONVERED TERRITORY WHICH IT TOOK OUR PERIONEERS ALMOST A CENTURY TO CROSS.

4. "WE HAD ALL TOO LITTLE TIME TO SEE OR TO EXPERIENCE WHAT IS TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE AMERICAN NATION IN THIS YEAR
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OF 1976 ----- OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR. I LISTENED TO MANY

PLANS. I READ MANY ARTICLES. IT MET HUNDREDS OF AMERICANS
LET ME TRY TO GIVE YOU SOME IMPRESSIONS.

5. "FIRST: THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR IS TRULY A NATIONAL
CELEBRATION.

6. "YOU WILL FIND BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS ALMOST EVERY-
WHERE YOU GO. BY EARLY JANUARY 8,000 COMMUNITIES ACROSS
THE UNITED STATES HAD FILED PLANS WITH THE NATIONAL BI-
CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE OBSERVANCES.
OVER SIX HUNDRED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAD BEEN AWARDED
THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE SEAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE FOR COMPLETION OF THEIR PLANS. THIS
MEANS THAT BY THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, 75 PERCENT OF
THE NATION'S POPULATION OF 213 MILLION LIVE IN AREAS WHICH
HAVE PLANNED BICENTENNIAL EVENTS.

7. "SOME OF THE PLANS ARE TRULY NATIONAL IN SCOPE.

8. "THE AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN, A PATRIOTIC SHOW ON RAILS,
WHICH INCLUDES SUCH ITEMS AS GEORGE WASHINGTON'S PERSONAL
COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION, WILL BE SEEN BY MILLIONS OF
PEOPLE IN ABOUT 80 CITIES BEFORE IT COMPLETES ITS TRAVELS
IN 1977.

9. "OR YOU MAY SAMPLE A SLOWER BUT EQUALLY AMBITIOUS
TRAVELING PROJECT: THE BICENTENNIAL WAGON TRAIN PILGRIMAGE.
THE PILGRIMAGE COMMEMORATES AMERICA'S WESTWARD MIGRATION
BY ASSEMBLING 50 COVERED WAGONS -- ONE FROM EACH STATE.
(IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, HAWAII SHIPPED HER WAGON BY BOAT
AND ALASKA SENT HERS BY AIR.) EACH STATE WAGON WILL JOIN
ONE OF FIVE WAGON TRAINS FOLLOWING SUCH HISTORIC ROUTES
AND THE SANTA FE TRAIL AND THE OREGON TRAIL. BY JULY 4, THE
WAGONS WILL CONVERGE ON VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA, WHERE
THE CONTINENTAL ARMY UNDER GENERAL WASHINGTON ENDURED ITS
HARSHEST WINTER OF THE WAR.

10. "AT MORE THAN A THOUSAND SCHEDULED EVENING ENCAMPMENTS,
THE WAGONERS WILL ENTERTAIN VISITORS WITH A MUSIC REVUE
CALLED 'THE WAGON TRAIN SHOW.' COMMUNITIES NEAR THE CAMP-
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SITES WILL RESPOND WITH MUSIC, DANCE, PLAYS OR OTHER
PRESENTATIONS THAT HIGHLIGHT LOCAL HISTORY AND CULTURE.

1. "IF YOU PREFER SOMETHING EVEN MORE ENERGETIC, THEN YOU
MAY WISH TO PACK YOUR BICYCLE AND JOIN THE 'BIKE-CENTENNIAL.'
YOUNG AMERICANS FOR MORE THAN A YEAR HAVE BEEN PREPARING
AND MAPPING A SERIES OF BICYCLE TRAILS SO THAT YOU CAN
PEDAL FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC COAST. PATRIOTIC --

AND ADVISABLE AFTER MEALS SUCH AS WE HAD TODAY*

12. "IF YOU PREFER THE ARTS, THERE'S A SPOT FOR YOU
-- IF YOU CAN GET YOUR RESERVATION IN EARLY.

13. "AS AN EXAMPLE, WASHINGTON'S KENNEDY CENTER IS STAGING
A YEAR-LONG SERIES OF AMERICAN DRAMAS -- FEATURING LONG-TIME
HITS BY AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS, INCLUDING SUCH '93\$4, ' AS
THORNTON WILDER, TENNESSEE WILLIAMS AND EUGENE O'NEILL.
NATIONAL TELEVISION NETWORKS HAVE COMMISSIONED SPECIAL
PROGRAMS. AT LEAST A DOZEN AMERICAN OPERAS -- SEVERAL
NEWLY COMMISSIONED -- WILL BE FEATURED ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

14. "BUT THESE ARE ONLY A FEW OF THE NATIONAL SPECTACULARS.

15. "IF YOU GO TO THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR, YOU WILL
FIND MANY THOUSANDS OF SMALLER -- BUT NO LESS COMMENDABLE
-- PROJECTS. SOME ARE REGIONAL. SOME INVOLVE SMALLER
COMMUNITIES. ALL ARE MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BI-
CENTENNIAL NATIONAL CELEBRATION.

16. "SECONDLY, THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL HAS BECOME AN
INTERNATIONAL PARTY.

17. "BY THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, 69 OTHER NATIONS --
INCLUDING ISRAEL -- HAD ANNOUNCED PLANS TO PARTICIPATE.

18. "IN ALMOST FIFTY AMERICAN CITIES THE CRY WILL BE
HEARD: THE BRITISH ARE COMING* BUT THIS TIME THE RED-
COATS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY FRIENDLY MILITARY UNITS FROM
GREAT BRITAIN, REPRESENTING IN 1776 COSTUMES THE BRITISH
UNITS INVOLVED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR CAMPAIGN.

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19. "OUR GOOD FRIENDS THE DUTCH SENT MORE THAN ONE MILLION
TULIP AND OTHER BULB FLOWERS TO BE PLANTED IN 100 CITIES
AND TOWNS. ITALY IS SENDING MODELS OF BUILDINGS WHICH
THOMAS JEFFERSON ADMIRERD AND COPIES IN HIS OWN ARCHI-
TECTURAL DESIGNS.

20. "MORE THAN 200 SAILING SHIPS FROM AT LEAST 20
NATIONS WILL RENDEZVOUS IN NEW YORK ON JULY 4, AND THEN APPEAR AT OTHE
R
OTHER EAST COAST PORTS. SOME OF THESE WILL BE THE TALL-
MASTED WINDJAMMERS OF THE LAST CENTURY.

21. ""AND IF YOU VISIT US IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1976 YOU
WILL BE ONE OF A HOST OF CELEBRITIES. QUEEN ELIZABETH OF
GREAT BRITAIN, QUEEN MARGARETHE AND PRINCE HENRIK OF

DENMARK, KING CARL GUSTAF OF SWEDEN, PRESIDENT GISCARD OF FRANCE AND MANY OTHER LEADERS WILL TAKE PART IN CELEBRATIONS. AND WE ARE VERY PLEASED THAT THE FIRST HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO VISIT US IN 1976 WAS YOUR OWN PRIME MINISTER, WHICH I CONSIDER FITTING IN VIEW OF THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

22. "THIRD: OUR BICENTENNIAL PARTY IS AN ETHNIC PARTY.

23. "FOR TOO MANY YEARS WE IN AMERICA ACCEPTED PERHAPS TOO LITERALLY, TOO UNCRITICALLY, THE IDEA OF AMERICA AS 'A MELTING POT.' CERTAINLY THERE HAS BEEN A MINGLING OF THE NATIONALITIES AND RACES THAT HAVE MADE UP MY NATION. BUT EQUALLY THERE IS A RECOGNITION THAT MUCH OF AMERICA'S SUCCESS I FOUND IN HER SPIRIT OF DIVERSITY. RATHER THAN A 'MELTING POT,' WHICH MIGHT BLEND ALL INTO A PATTERN OF LIKENESSES, WE ARE COMING TO THINK OF OURSELVES AS A 'NATION OF NATIONS.'

24. "IN CONNECTION WITH THIS, AMERICAN BLACKS IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY ARE STAGING EVENTS TO SHOW THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES. AND THEY ARE JOINED

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-02 PRS-01

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R 030940Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0012

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FOR NEA/IAI SMITH

BY MEXICAN-AMERICANS AND CHINESE-AMERICANS AND POLISH-AMERICANS AND ALL THE OTHER COMBINATIONS THAT YOU CAN IMAGINE.

25. "PROMINENT AMONG THESE 'NATIONS WITHIN A NATION' WILL BE THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN JEW.

26. "BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY IN WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, IS ONE OF THE SCHOOLS TAKING A LEAD IN STUDYING THE EXPERIENCES OF THE AMERICAN JEW DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR. A SERIES OF SEMINARS WILL EXAMINE THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE, FOCUSING ON THE ORIGINS, TRADITIONS AND VALUES OF THE AMERICANJEWISH COMMUNITY.

27 "OUT IN DENVER, COLORADO, ANOTHER AMERICAN-JEWISH CONTRIBUTION IS THE BABI YAR PARK PROJECT. A 24-ACRE PARK HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN DENVER TO COMMEMORATE THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN 1941 AT BABI YAR, NEAR KIEV, WHERE APPROXIMATELY 100,000 SOVIET JEWS WERE MASSACRED.

28. "MANY JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ARE COOPERATING TO STAGE A MUSIC FESTIVAL ENTITLED 'AMERICAN JEWISH MUSIC: A BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,' WHILE THE NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD HAS PLANNED TWO LITURGICAL CONCERT EVENTS IN NEW YORK CITY.

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29. "I HAVE HAD TIME TO MENTION ONLY A FEW OF THE MANY PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD OR WILL BE HELD DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

30. "I HAVE MENTIONED THAT OUR BICENTENNIAL IS NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND ETHNIC. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT, FOURTH -- OUR AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL INCLUDES YOU, OVERSEAS. MOST OF THE 69 NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE ALSO STAGING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THEIR OWN BORDERS.

31. "YOU PRIME MINISTER AND YOUR MAYOR OF JERUSALEM OPENED THE ISRAELI OBSERVANCES OF THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL WITH THE DEDICATION OF THE LIBERTY BELL GARDEN IN THIS CITY ON JANUARY 13. LET ME MENTION, BRIEFLY, ONLY A FEW OTHER ACTIVITIES.

32. "THE ISRAEL PHILATELIC SERVICES IS SPONSORING A COMPETITION FOR THE DESIGN OF A STAMP MARKING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL.

33. "YOUR ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA WILL PERFORM IN THE UNITED STATES IN AUGUST.

34. "A STATUE OF ABRHAM LINCOLN WILL BE DEDICATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE AT THE RAMAT GAN CULTURAL CENTER.

35. "TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY HAS ALREADY SET UP ITS AMERICAN STUDY DEPARTMENT. AND ON MARCH 10, WITH HELP FROM AN AMERICAN GRANT, TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY WILL BEGIN A MAJOR COMPILATION OF RESEARCH MATERIAL ON AMERICAN HISTORY.

36. "HEBREW UNIVERSITY IS MAKING A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HEBREW WRITINGS IN CONNECTION WITH AMERICAN HISTORY AND WILL HOLD A THREE-DAY CONFERENCE OF TOP AMERICAN AND ISRAELI SCHOLARS TOWARD THE END OF THIS YEAR.

37. "DAVAR IS PLANNING A SERIES OF AMERICAN HISTORY QUIZZES FOR ITS READERS. THE TWO TOP WINNERS WILL GET FREE TRIPS TO THE UNITED STATES
THE MEDIA ARE PLANNING SPECIAL OBSERVANCES.
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38. "THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AMERICA WILL WORK WITH ONE OF YOUR OWN ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP THIS YEAR AN AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL PARK FIFTEEN MILES FROM JERUSALEM -- ALONG THE JUDEAN MOUNTAIN RIDGE. EVENTUALLY THIS PROJECT WILL RECLAIM ONE THOUSAND ACRES (FOUR THOUSAND DUNAMS), CREATE A ONE-MILLION-TREE FOREST, OFFER CAMPSITES AND RECREATION AREAS, AND HONOR FIGURES AND EVENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY.

39. "FOR ME -- AND I FEEL FOR THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE -- THESE ISRAELI PROJECTS EMBODY THE TRUE GOALS OF THE BICENTENNIAL.

40. "CERTAINLY MUCH OF THE BICENTENNIAL FOCUSES ON THINGS PAST.

41. "BUT I RECALL A STATEMENT BY THOMAS JEFFERSON: 'I LIKE THE DREAMS OF THE FUTURE BETTER THAN THE HISTORY OF THE PAST.'

42. "I DO NOT SAY THIS TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF RETELLING HISTORY OR OF HONORING THE BRAVERY, THE SACRIFICE, THE INGENUITY OF OUR ANCESTERS. BUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE HAS ASKED THAT PROJECTS BE PLANNED TO HAVE LASTING VALUE. YOUR PROJECTS HERE CERTAINLY MEET THIS GOAL.

43. "AND YOUR PRIME MINISTER AND I SAW DURING OUR TRIP ACROSS THE UNITED STATES THAT 1976 -- BOTH A BICENTENNIAL YEAR AND A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR -- IS BEING USED AS A TIME FOR REASSESSMENT FOR THE FUTURE.

44. "IN THE UNITED STATES THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT ARE A PART OF A GREAT NATIONAL DEBATE. PRESIDENT FORD HAS SAID THAT HE FEELS IT IS PRO-FOUNDLY ENCOURAGING THAT AMERICANS IN 1976 ARE STILL SO DEEPLY CONCERNED AND STILL AS HEATEDLY ARGUING THE BASIC QUESTIONS THAT FACED THE FOUNDERS OF OUR REPUBLIC IN 1776.

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45. "WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR AMERICAN EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN ONE OF TRIAL AND ERROR AND IMPROVEMENT FOR ITS FULL 200 YEARS. THAT EXPERIMENT, THE TRIALS AND ERRORS AND -- WE HOPE -- IMPROVEMENT, ARE FAR FROM COMPLETED POLITICAL DECISIONS WHICH AMERICANS WILL MAKE THIS YEAR WILL DETERMINE AMERICA'S FUTURE COURSE AND THE KIND OF COUNTRY OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WILL INHERIT JUST AS SURELY AS DID THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE COLONIAL LEGISLATURES AND THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA 200 YEARS AGO. I ONLY HOPE WE WILL BE AS WISE AND FORESIGHTED AS THEY WERE.

46. "WE HAVE LEARNED THAT PROBLEMS SELDOM FADE AWAY OF THEIR OWN CHOICE. THE DECISIONS TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS ARE OFTEN DIFFICULT TO MAKE, HARD TO ADJUST TO, AND DEMAND GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN INDIVIDUAL, PARTY, AND GOVERNMENT."

47. BUT OUR 200 YEARS -- LIKE YOUR THOUSANDS OF YEARS -- SHOW THAT A PEOPLE CAN ADJUST AND GROW. THAT, I BELIEVE, IS WHAT OUR BICENTENNIAL IS ABOUT. BY OUR WORK WE CAN HELP TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE A FUTURE THAT BUILDS UPON THE BEST OF THE PAST.

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